Recently, I have heard from several constituents who are concerned because they have not yet received their economic stimulus checks.

Earlier this year, Congress passed the <u>Economic Stimulus Act</u> to stimulate our faltering economy. In addition to other measures, rebate checks are being distributed to American taxpayers to provide a much needed infusion of spending into the economy.

Several constituents have called my office recently with questions about the rebate, so I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify a few questions you may have about the rebate.

Distribution and Eligibility

The IRS began distributing these checks on May 2 based on the last two digits of taxpayers' social security numbers. As of June 13, 2008, the IRS had distributed more than 76 million stimulus payments to individuals, totaling \$63.9 billion. In order to be eligible to receive a stimulus check, taxpayers must meet the following criteria:

- Must have a valid social security number
- Must have had at least \$3000 of income in 2007, and
- Must have filed a 2007 federal tax return (even if they do not normally do so).

Disabled veterans and retirees who filed after April 15, or those who filed an extension on their tax returns, may not receive their stimulus checks according to the regular schedule.

Still waiting for your IRS Refund Check?

According to my liaison at the IRS, there are still a potential 615,135 filers in California that have not submitted paperwork, including as many as 15,000 in the fifteenth Congressional District.

The IRS has informed me that through their outreach efforts, so far over 14 million persons on the SSA and VA list who did not file a Federal Income Tax Return in 2006 have done so in 2007. They have assured me that they will be working throughout the summer to reach out to these people and make sure they receive their checks.

Those whose tax returns were received and processed by April 15 and who use direct deposit to receive their refund should have received the deposit in their account by May 16. Those who receive a paper check normally, or who normally use direct deposit but had filing or preparation fees deducted from their 2007 refund or obtained a refund anticipation loan related to their regular tax refund, will continue to receive their stimulus checks throughout the next few weeks based on the last two digits of their social security numbers. The IRS has the rebate distribution schedule on their website.

Non-received / Lost Rebate Checks

If you or someone you know filed taxes by April 15 and should have received a check according to the schedule above, and have not yet received it, you may contact the IRS' San Jose office at the following address:

Internal Revenue Service

55 S. Market St San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 817-6747 Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

More <u>information about the stimulus plan</u> and answers to other common tax questions are available on the IRS website .